

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Laurel Grove Baptist Church on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary and also in expressing our deepest respect and admiration for the triumph of spirit that is symbolized by this "Little Church by the Side of the Road".

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 738, a resolution honoring the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues I am proud to support landmark legislation that shined a light on the problem of intimate partner violence and provided women with the resources needed to escape violent relationships.

This 15th anniversary, we celebrate the tremendous gains we have made in raising awareness about domestic violence and empowering women to leave unhealthy relationships and rebuilt their lives away from their abusers.

President Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act on September 13, 1994, as part of the Omnibus Crime Bill. And over the last 15 years we have made tremendous progress toward ending the cycle of abuse. States have taken up the charge and have passed close to 700 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As a result, more victims are reporting their abuse and the number of women killed by an intimate partner decreased by 24 percent. The number of comprehensive service program has grown exponentially since the passage of VAWA.

However, we have more work to do. Despite these gains, the anniversary of VAWA reminds us that there are many women and children still living in terror and in constant fear for their safety.

Today, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion annually, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services. Nearly 1 in 4 women in the U.S. will be abused by a current or former partner at some time in their lives.

We need to continue looking for a wide range of solutions to this problem. We need to devote more resources to helping women and their children begin living healthy and happy lives free of violence.

I am glad we are honoring the legislation on its 15th anniversary and I look forward to re-authorizing the program next year. I hope that we will continue our efforts to protect women from abuse and encourage the building of healthy families.

I urge all of my colleagues to strongly support the resolution.

MILDRED L. COX

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the life of a very important friend to my home state of Indiana, Mildred L. Cox.

For more than a quarter century, Millie, as she was known, tirelessly advocated for Indiana's credit unions and worked to ensure that they would provide the best financial services to their members.

Millie was born to William Clyde and Vonnice Pearl South in Jamestown, Tennessee on May 17, 1940. A graduate of Kennard High School in 1957, Millie's zest for life was obvious to all those who were fortunate to know her.

As the "Team Mom" of her late husband's little league teams and president of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Millie touched many lives. In her free time, Millie could often be found reading, gardening, or researching her family's genealogy; however, it was her work on behalf of Indiana credit unions that will cast Millie's most lasting legacy.

Millie joined the staff of the Indiana Credit Union League in February of 1977, serving as secretary in the Governmental Affairs Department. Due to her tremendous work ethic, Millie was first promoted in 1980 and two years later, she became the department's legislative coordinator. In this position, Millie began actively lobbying the Indiana Statehouse and U.S. Congress on behalf of Indiana's credit unions.

Millie soon became a recognizable figure both at the Statehouse and in Washington, D.C. She was known for her passionate convictions and spent a great deal of time educating others with regard to the legislative process, as well as strongly encouraging political involvement.

In 1986, Millie became the Vice President of Governmental Affairs and served as a liaison between the credit unions and regulatory agencies that shape policy.

Upon her retirement in 2003, Millie had amassed a legacy of service that will be remembered for generations to come. Of the many honors she received, the late Governor of Indiana, Frank O'Bannon awarded Millie with the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash.

The Indiana General Assembly adopted a resolution honoring Millie's service as the Vice President of Governmental Affairs in 2003, and each year, the Indiana Credit Union Foundation now awards the Millie Cox Award. It is presented to a deserving recipient that best exemplifies Millie's qualities in advocating on behalf of the credit unions.

Millie was also blessed with a loving family. She will be sorely missed by her son Curt, her brothers and sisters, extended family and all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

We have lost an important figure in our community and I have lost a dear friend.

Let us keep Millie Cox and her family in our thoughts and prayers as we mark her passing.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Chair. I rise today in support of the legislation before us today, H.R. 3221.

A college degree is now deeply intertwined with the promise of the American dream, and it is our responsibility to provide equal opportunities to America's students. As the skill requirements of jobs continue to increase, so too should access to postsecondary education for all of our nation's students.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act directs the government to originate all student loans and it also ensures that there is a role for private industry, guarantee agencies, and non-profits in providing their services. This truly is a public-private partnership.

Moving all loans to the Direct Lending program will save the federal government and taxpayers almost \$100 billion over the next 10 years as it eliminates tax-payer funded subsidies private lenders have been receiving to make student loans. Students in Sacramento will see a dramatic increase in their Pell grant awards over the next 10 years with total amounts going from \$44 million to over \$110 million in our community alone.

The savings found through this proposal will help strengthen the Pell grant program, keep interest rates on student loans low, improve community colleges, and expand early childhood education.

Given the recent economic downturn, more and more students are seeking aid, and additional Pell funds will allow them to achieve their goals.

Elisa Piña is a fourth year student at California State University, Sacramento, which is located in my district. She is receiving the Cal Grant and the Pell Grant, and is also a participant in the Federal Work-Study Program. With the recent state budget cuts to the Cal Grant, the Pell Grant is crucial to her ability to stay in school.

Elisa comes from a low-income family. Without the financial aid afforded to her through these programs, she would have never been able to afford college.

Elisa's story, thanks to the federal loan program this Congress has supported, is one of millions in communities all across the country. The bill before us today will make her dream of going to college a reality for millions more.

Madam Chair, for all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill.